

President U Min Aung Hlaing Reports on Government's 100-Day Progress at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

As the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar had delivered a message of invitation, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address emphasizing the report on 100-day progress of the government under Section 210 of the Constitution and Section 65 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law at the 12th-day meeting of the Second Regular Session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw at 10 am yesterday.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was attended by 539 out of 560 lawmakers, accounting for 96.25 per cent.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe invited President U Min Aung Hlaing of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to address the Hluttaw on the government's 100-day progress. The President delivered his remarks on the State's advancement. He said:



SEE PAGE 3 President U Min Aung Hlaing addresses the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on the Government's 100-day progress in Nay Pyi Taw.

DEMU Train Debuts on Yangon-Pyay Route



A new DEMU train is seen during its inaugural run on the Yangon-Pyay railway line.

DURING the first 100 days of the new government, Myanmar Railways successfully upgraded railway infrastructure. In line with the President's guidance to improve services, the Yangon-Pyay-Yangon route has now been upgraded to provide passengers with a safer and more comfortable journey, said Union Minister for Transport and for Digital Development and Communications U Mya Tun Oo. He added that mod-

ern air-conditioned DEMU trains resumed services on the Yangon-Mandalay route on 1 May and the Yangon-Mawlamyine route on 1 July. In addition, diesel-electric train services between Myitkyina and Mohnyin on the Mandalay-Myitkyina line operated on 21 July.

Union Minister U Mya Tun Oo said at the launching ceremony for the operation of Up Train No 73 and Down Train No 74 with

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Tender Invited for Radio Frequency System Spare Parts

THE Directorate of Posts and Telecommunications of under the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications called for an open tender to purchase spare parts for the utilization of radio frequency measurement systems during the 2026-2027 Financial Year.

The items to be purchased include Central Processing Unit (CPU) Module Card, Synthesizer for TCI RF Monitoring System, Power Over Ethernet (POE), Antenna Controller Module, and Antenna Ca-

ble. Tender forms will be available for purchase by 14 August. Tender forms can be obtained from the Store Division, Directorate of Posts and Telecommunications at Office 2 in Nay Pyi Taw. Tenders must be submitted to the Tender Accepting and Evaluation Committee of the directorate. The tender opening will take place at 10:30 am on 18 August. Individuals can enquire for further details through the directorate either in person or by dialling 067 3407051 or 067 3407438. — NN/KK

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Annual Waso Wave Jumping Festival hosted

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YGN palm oil wholesale reference price steady for 3rd straight weeks

NATIONAL

Youths Urged to Pursue Education, Strengthen Discipline, and Limit Excessive Leisure

YOUTH should strive to pursue their education and become well-educated. They should also develop a clear understanding of discipline and make every effort to work hard. Then, I would like to see young people spend less time on entertainment and leisure. I hope they will remain diligent, as our country has great potential for the future.

(Extract from President U Min Aung Hlaing’s Responses to Media Questions Following His 100-Day Initiative at the 12th meeting of the Second Regular Session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 31 July 2026)

Public Notice

- Due to ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, global fuel prices have increased, affecting transport costs for essential goods distributed by diesel-powered vehicles. To help stabilize prices of basic commodities, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue had previously announced a tax exemption on imported High-Speed Diesel (HSD 500 ppm), including customs duty, special commodity tax, commercial tax, and a two per cent advance income tax, effective from 1 April 2026 to 31 July 2026, as published in state-owned newspapers. This tax exemption period has now been extended from 1 to 31 August 2026.
- Therefore, the Import Declaration (ID) will be opened at the Customs Department until 31 August 2026, and the tax exemption will apply to the imports of HSD (500 ppm).

Ministry of Finance and Revenue

Public Notice

- To ensure continuous development of the agricultural sector, which is a key foundation of the State economy, and to reduce production costs for farmers, a two-per-cent advance income tax on imported fertilizers will be exempted from 1 April to 30 July 2026, and announced in the state-run newspapers. This exemption period has now been extended from 1 to 31 August 2026.
- Therefore, the Import Declaration (ID) will be opened at the Customs Department until 31 August 2026, and the tax exemption will apply to the imports of fertilizers.

Ministry of Finance and Revenue

Public Notice

- Due to rising global fuel prices caused by conflicts in the Middle East, the price of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) has also increased. To support power generation and reduce electricity costs, customs duty, commercial tax, and advance income tax on imported Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) will be exempted from 1 April to 30 July 2026. Such information has already been announced in state-owned newspapers, and this exemption period has now been extended from 1 to 31 August 2026.
- Therefore, the Import Declaration (ID) will be opened at the Customs Department until 31 August 2026, and the tax exemption will apply to the imports of Liquefied Natural Gas.

Ministry of Finance and Revenue

Anti-Online Scam Law Enacted

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw enacted the Anti-Online Scam Law as Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No 3/2026 on 31 July 2026. The Law features 12 chapters on title, jurisdiction and definitions, objectives, formation of the Central Committee and its Functions and Powers, formation of regional committees and their functions and powers, formation of the Anti-Scam Centre and its Functions, prevention, information exchange, temporary suspension of financial flow and taking action, international co-operation, prohibitions, penalties, and miscellaneous. — GNLM/TTA

Election Tribunal Issues Ruling in Election Petition 3/2025

ELECTION Tribunal No 5, chaired by Union Election Commission Member U Than Aung Kyaw, with U Myo Maung and U Kyi Thein serving as members, has issued its ruling in Election Petition No 3/2025 concerning the Pyithu Hluttaw constituency of Thabeikkyin Township, Mandalay Region.

The petition was filed on 12 March 2026 by unsuccessful candidate U Thant Zin Win, who contested the constituency and challenged the election of Daw Aye Mya Mya Soe as the duly elected Pyithu Hluttaw representative. The tribunal heard the case under Section 69(a) (i) of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law.

Following the hearings, the tribunal ruled on 16 July 2026 that Daw Aye Mya Mya Soe had been duly elected as the Pyithu Hluttaw representative for Thabeikkyin Township. It also ordered the petitioner, U Thant Zin Win, to pay the respondent K200,000 in legal costs.

As the petitioner did not file an appeal within the prescribed period under Rule 124 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Rules, arrangements are being made to publish the tribunal’s decision in the official Gazette. — MNA/KZL

Annual Waso Wave Jumping Festival hosted



Participants in the Waso Wave Jumping Festival along the seashore.

THE traditional annual Waso Wave Jumping Festival was held in various villages along the seashore in Hainggyikyun, Patheingyi District, Ayeyawady Region on the morning of 30 July. It is said that families from various villages come to the beach every year on the first day of the full moon of Waso and celebrate it happily.

lies from various villages come to the beach every year on the first day of the full moon of Waso and celebrate it happily.

It is believed that participating in the Waso Wave Jumping Festival brings people together and closer to each other. After the Waso Wave Jumping Festival is held on the first day of the full moon of Waso, in the evening, people go to monasteries to offer various flowers and incense to the Buddha. — ASH/MKKS

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

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President U Min Aung Hlaing Reports on Government's 100-Day Progress at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

FROM PAGE 1

The government has, since assuming office, accelerated the implementation of its two priority objectives: **ensuring national peace and stability and promoting the country's development**. Only when the country is peaceful and stable can the socioeconomic well-being of the people and the national economy be effectively developed.

With regard to peace, the government stated that during its first 100 days in office it had intensified efforts to encourage those who had taken up arms due to political differences to return to the legal fold and engage in peaceful dialogue. It also reaffirmed that the door to peace has been kept permanently open and that all parties have been continuously invited to participate in the peace process.

The government stated that, intending to establish a Union founded on democracy and a federal system – the shared aspiration of all ethnic nationalities – it has submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw a package of 43 proposed amendments to the 2008 Constitution. The government also stated that it has consistently invited all Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) to engage in dialogue and that it has so far held discussions with 13 EAOs.

At this time, all ethnic nationalities need to unite and work together in building a new nation. To restore peace and stability across the country as soon as possible, the government emphasized that, in the peace process, **rather than insisting on demands that are unattainable**, all parties should negotiate and pursue only those objectives that are realistic, achievable, and in line with the current circumstances.

The responsibility for achieving lasting peace does not rest solely with the government. Rather, it is a shared responsibility of all national institutions, including the government, the Tatmadaw, and the Hluttaw. Therefore, it earnestly called on all stakeholders to cooperate to the fullest extent of their abilities in the collective effort to achieve enduring peace throughout the country.

Regarding national defence, the government stated that the Tatmadaw will be developed into

a modern, **standard army** with strong **combat capability and power**. It further stated that, to ensure broad public participation in national security and defence, a **people's militia strategy** will be implemented under the leadership of the Tatmadaw.

The government also noted that while responsibility for internal security rests with the Myanmar Police Force, the current situation in the country has required the Tatmadaw to work jointly with the police in addressing internal security challenges. Systematic training will be provided to further enhance the professional capabilities of police personnel in order to strengthen internal security and uphold the rule of law.

In safeguarding and promoting Myanmar's national interests, the government stated that it will

while safeguarding Myanmar's national interests and sovereignty, and would work to enhance relations with ASEAN through a Myanmar-led, Myanmar-owned approach.

The present time is a crucial period in which agriculture, livestock breeding, and industrial economic sectors – the fundamental pillars for improving the socioeconomic development and livelihoods of the people – must be promoted in a balanced and integrated manner. Myanmar already has a sufficient amount of agricultural land, and therefore there is no need to further expand cultivated areas. Instead, it is necessary to shift from traditional farming systems to modern mechanized agriculture in order to achieve targeted yields, increase multiple cropping, and enhance overall

sufficiency, the government stated that special zones have been designated for oilseed crops such as groundnut, sesame, and sunflower in 12 areas, with measures being implemented to increase per-acre yields and achieve targeted production levels.

As edible oil has to be imported from abroad, a large amount of foreign currency is being spent. A total of 550,000 tonnes was imported in 2024 and 640,000 tonnes in 2025. At present, around 550,000 acres of various cotton varieties are being cultivated, and plans are underway to increase cotton cultivation and production to 600,000 acres in the 2027-2028 crop season. If current cotton production and cultivated acreage are maintained at the proper levels, there will be a large surplus, enabling exports to foreign markets. Currently, cotton

70 per cent from capture fisheries. It has been found that the aquaculture sector remains far lower than that of neighbouring countries in the region.

In 2024, the price of crude oil was around US\$84 per barrel, while in 2025 it was around US\$72 per barrel. Following the outbreak of conflicts in the Middle East in 2026, the price of crude oil rose to as high as US\$126 per barrel. As a result, production costs for all businesses dependent on fuel have increased significantly.

As Myanmar imports fuel worth around US\$5 billion annually, it is necessary to implement fuel-saving measures as a national policy to ensure energy security and overcome these challenges. **Fuel consumption has been reduced by implementing measures such as allowing vehicles to operate on designated odd and even days and introducing work-from-home arrangements on Wednesdays. Through these fuel-saving measures, approximately 1.2 million gallons of fuel have been saved per day, resulting in savings of about US\$7 million per day and around US\$210 million per month. To date, total savings have exceeded US\$1 billion. Appreciation is also extended to the public for their cooperation and participation in these efforts.**

Furthermore, the government is accelerating the upgrading of the railway sector in order to reduce dependence on fuel. To promote fuel conservation, battery electric locomotives (BELs), which use battery systems as an alternative to fuel, have been converted, modified and manufactured domestically, and some of them have already begun operating on certain railway routes. At present, the use of BELs is considered one of the best solutions for reducing fuel consumption and minimizing environmental impacts. Therefore, efforts are being made to continue promoting the use of BEL locomotives until electric railway systems can be fully introduced and utilized. Similarly, in the automotive sector, special emphasis is being placed on promoting the replacement of petrol and diesel-powered vehicles with electric vehicles (EVs).

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The government will spend the first two years laying the groundwork and building momentum for the new nation, followed by three years dedicated to accelerating its nation-building efforts.

adhere to the foreign policy enshrined in the Constitution – an **independent, active, and non-aligned foreign policy** – and pursue balanced and well-proportioned relations in its international engagements. Myanmar will continue to strengthen its international relations with neighbouring countries and regional partners in accordance with the **Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence**.

Regarding the current situation within ASEAN, the government noted that although some ASEAN member states had, over the past five years, adopted positions and practices that it regarded as discriminatory towards Myanmar, Myanmar had exercised patience and continued to cooperate in accordance with its responsibilities as an ASEAN member state.

The government further stated that it would respond to any discriminatory actions that are not constructive on a **case-by-case basis**, as necessary. In line with the country's foreign policy, the government said it would base its actions on prevailing realities

productivity.

The government stated that it will ensure that paddy is cultivated across all agricultural lands to achieve the targeted yield, enabling not only domestic food sufficiency but also restoring Myanmar's previous status of exporting rice in large volumes. In addition, in line with the vision of ushering in a new era for Myanmar's Pawsan rice, the government is taking measures in the first phase to expand the cultivation and production of high-quality rice varieties that meet market requirements, to export three million tonnes of rice annually. It is also implementing plans to expand paddy cultivation by an additional 350,000 acres with suitable varieties. In the second phase, the government aims to increase annual rice exports to five million tonnes. Furthermore, Myanmar is striving to become one of the world's major food-producing countries and a **"rice bowl" nation**, not only supplying regional countries but also contributing to global food security.

Regarding domestic edible oil

yield averages only 499 viss per acre. Therefore, if efforts can be made to increase the yield to the target level of 700 viss per acre, significant foreign exchange earnings can be generated. Accordingly, measures will be taken to encourage and support increased cotton production. Solar-powered river water pumping projects have also been initiated to ensure an adequate supply of irrigation water, which is essential for agricultural activities.

Based on the annual consumption rate of the population of 51.4 million people, it has been found that in most regions and states, the production of chicken and pork, as well as basic food items such as chicken eggs and duck eggs, is insufficient to meet local demand. The significant gap between consumption and production has also contributed to high commodity prices.

Therefore, it is necessary to further promote and expand the livestock sector to ensure food sufficiency. At present, Myanmar's actual fish production consists of 30 per cent from aquaculture and

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Similarly, efforts will be made to improve waterways so that the Ayeyawady River and the Chindwin River can be effectively utilized throughout the year for cost-efficient waterway transport. In the aviation sector, five airlines are currently operating with a total fleet of 32 aircraft. Within the first 100 days, 10 projects have been successfully implemented, including runway upgrades and maintenance works at Anisakhan Airport in PyinOoLwin's Township, Mandalay Region, as well as at Kawthoung, Myeik, Dawei, Pathein, Bagan-NyaungU, Kengtung and Tachilek airports, to enable passenger jet aircraft to land at these airports.

We are also conducting studies on the construction of low-head dams and power plants along the main Ayeyawady River. If the 10 electricity projects, including the Myitsone Project, can continue to be implemented, the required amount of electricity for the country will be fully supplied. Therefore, efforts will be made to implement these projects to improve the socioeconomic living standards of the people.

In seeking various ways to generate the electricity required for the country, coal-fired power generation and nuclear power generation are also options that need to be considered. In order to achieve the goal of nationwide electricity access by 2030, Myanmar will construct an advanced-technology coal-fired power plant with a capacity of up to 660 megawatts, designed to minimize environmental impacts, in phases over five years to contribute to the national power supply plan. In addition, efforts will continue toward the construction of a nuclear power plant.

Looking at the education situation in Myanmar, the literacy rate among the population aged 15 and above was 92.1 per cent in 2024, while the numeracy rate was 92.3 per cent. To promote the development of the education sector, 6.92 per cent of the State budget will be allocated to the Ministry of Education in the 2026-2027 FY. Including education-related expenditures of other ministries, a total of 9.22 per cent of the State budget will be spent on the education sector.

In the upcoming 2027-2028 FY, the allocation for the Ministry of Education will be increased to no less than 10 per cent of the State budget. Furthermore, plans are being made to increase education sector expenditure to 15 per cent of the State budget in the 2028-2029 FY.

According to the current statistics of the Ministry of Education, in the 2026-2027 academic year, approximately 4.9 million students are attending primary schools, more than two million students are attending middle schools, and over 600,000 students are attending high schools, bringing the total number of basic education students to more than 7.5 million.

Compared with the 2025-2026 AY, when the total number of basic education students was

been opened. Of the 50 universities under the Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education, 48 have been reopened. There are currently 315,285 teachers serving at the basic education level and 10,679 lecturers and staff serving at the higher education level. Among the 25 Education Degree Colleges, five are being upgraded to universities specializing in teacher education. In addition, 8,000 teachers whose appointments had been delayed for various reasons have been appointed during this month.

In the basic education sector, the Smart School programme and the Football for Schools Programme were also implemented in coordination with the Ministry of Sports and the Myanmar Football Federation during the government's first 100 days. Fur-

ly 1,200 newly graduated doctors and around 2,600 newly graduated nurses by the end of 2026. In the health sector, 200-bed hospitals in various states and regions are being upgraded to 300-bed hospitals, while medical equipment and supplies are also being provided and supplemented.

According to the 2024 census, Myanmar has a youth population of around 17 million, accounting for 32.69 per cent of the total population. Therefore, having a large young population is a golden opportunity for the country. Despite this great opportunity, the high school dropout rate among young people has resulted in weaknesses in education, including limited access to higher education, vocational education and digital technology skills. The government has adopted the theme “**Empowered**

phasize promoting public-private partnerships (PPP). It should also be noted that strengthening research and development and ensuring policy stability will help enhance private sector confidence and encourage investment. Myanmar is situated at the centre of a region with a population of around four billion people and has great potential in terms of economy and trade. Therefore, to promote national economic development, it is necessary to expand the export sector while also strengthening the domestic production sector to substitute imports.

One of the factors contributing to the trade deficit is the low level of domestic production combined with a high volume of imports. In addition, monetary, fiscal, trade and investment policies will be reviewed and studied, and measures will be accelerated to promote the development of the economic sector.

According to the 2024 Population and Housing Census, the labour force participation rate among the population aged 15 and above was only 47 per cent. In addition, among those who migrated abroad, the age group of 15 to 34 years accounted for approximately 71.7 per cent of all migrants. Therefore, we are placing special emphasis on implementing the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project. Efforts are being made to ensure its full completion during the term of the current government.

In addition, the Mandalay-Muse Railway Project, which is a key project under the **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, will serve as a vital lifeline opening up Myanmar's northern economic gateway. It will greatly enhance Myanmar-China trade and economic cooperation. If the country enjoys stability and peace, development activities can be carried out without disruption. Myanmar's current forest coverage accounts for 42.15 per cent of the country's total land area. As a long-term plan to restore forest coverage to 50 per cent of the country's territory, the policy “Let us conserve the environment for the prosperity of the nation” has been adopted and is being implemented.

Fuel consumption has been reduced by implementing measures such as allowing vehicles to operate on designated odd and even days and introducing work-from-home arrangements on Wednesdays. Through these fuel-saving measures, approximately 1.2 million gallons of fuel have been saved per day, ...

over 7.1 million, the number of students has increased by around 400,000 this year. However, when compared with the 2016-2017 AY, when the number of students attending schools was 9.4 million, the current figure remains lower. Therefore, continued efforts will be made to ensure that every school-age child has the opportunity to attend school.

Special programmes will be implemented in areas with weaker education systems to enable students to continue their education up to KG+9 level. In addition, 92 industrial, agriculture and livestock high schools have already been opened. Among the 15 existing agricultural and livestock breeding institutes, plans are currently underway to upgrade the schools in Pwintbyu, Thayawady, Thaton and Heho, which have suitable school areas and basic infrastructure, into agricultural and livestock breeding colleges, and to appoint the necessary teachers and staff.

In the education sector, out of a total of 50,962 basic education schools, 35,539 schools have

thermore, construction of convocation halls, recreation centres, standard football fields and sports halls is also being carried out at major universities in various states and regions.

Preparations have already begun to develop human resources and the necessary technologies to launch a Myanmar-owned satellite in cooperation with China in the near future. Nano Satellites and Micro Satellites will also be jointly developed and launched in collaboration with partner organizations. Myanmar's life expectancy at birth was only between 60 and 64 years at the beginning of the 30-year long-term Myanmar Health Vision plan in 2000. It is projected that life expectancy will increase to between 75 and 80 years by 2030.

Therefore, the government has upgraded and opened 15 nursing and midwifery training schools as nursing institutes. The remaining 27 nursing and midwifery-training schools have also been prioritized for organizational upgrading. In addition, plans are underway to recruit approximate-

Youth, Strong Nation, Shared Future” as its vision for youth sector development. It is committed to formulating a **National Youth Development Policy Framework** and developing and implementing strategies as well as short-term and long-term plans for youth development.

According to the 2024 Census Report, women account for approximately 53 per cent of Myanmar's population. The representation of women in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) increased from 4.8 per cent in the first term to 10.5 per cent in the second term, and further increased to 14.6 per cent in the third term. Similarly, the proportion of women holding senior positions at the level of director-general and above within government organizations has increased to 51.5 per cent. In addition, the government has established and assigned a dedicated Ministry of Women's Affairs to further enhance the capacity and capabilities of Myanmar women in various fields.

The government will em-

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“Peace is our highest aspiration. Only through peace can we build and advance our nation. It is peace that empowers us to stand strong and compete on equal footing with the international community.”

PRESIDENT U Min Aung Hlaing of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar delivered a speech on the government’s 100-day plan, outlining the State’s progress at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting on 31 July 2026. He also addressed questions raised by the media. The President’s responses are as follows:

Q: Please share a message with the youth.

A: Youth need to strive for their future. Another important point is that there are weaknesses in education. Young people should make efforts in their studies, strive to become educated and knowledgeable individuals, understand the importance of discipline, and work hard. I also urge them to curb excessive indulgence and devote greater effort to meaningful pursuits. Their potential is immense, and with focus, they can make vital contributions to the nation’s future.

Q: I would also like to request that you share a message regarding peace.

A: Peace is our greatest aspiration. Peace is the foundation of our nation’s development and our ability to compete globally. To advance in line with the demands of the present era, all stakeholders must act with vision and determination. Achievable goals can be realized, but pursuing the impossible only prolongs difficulties. Therefore, peace must remain our foremost national priority. I urge all stakeholders to work together with awareness and understanding.
— NEWS TEAM/TTA



President U Min Aung Hlaing receives and responds to questions from media presonnel.

President U Min Aung Hlaing Reports on Government’s 100-Day Progress at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

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Regarding the tourism sector, countries around the world regard tourism as a “smokeless industry” and rely on it as an important economic sector. Myanmar has favourable resources for tourism development, including national heritage sites, ancient Buddhist pagodas and monuments that have contributed to Myanmar being described as the “**Golden Land**”, as well as the Myanmar Thingyan Festival, which is the first intangible cultural heritage of the Myanmar people representing humanity. Efforts are being made to effectively utilize these resources and develop nature-based and cultural tourism in the best possible manner.

Since the 2024-2025 AY, law studies have been introduced at the upper secondary education level. As a result, around 800,000 high school students have already gained basic knowledge and understanding of law. In particular, instructions have been

issued to strictly address and take effective action against drug prevention and suppression as well as online scam and online gambling activities in various regions and areas.

The government considers online fraud and online gambling as serious crimes committed against the majority of people. Therefore, the government will not tolerate or condone such activities and is taking strong measures to suppress and eliminate them. During these crackdowns, it was found that 99 per cent of the offenders were foreign nationals who had illegally entered Myanmar through neighbouring countries to carry out such activities. However, foreign media outlets have been portraying the issue in international news reports as if Myanmar alone bears responsibility for these crimes.

The government considers narcotic drugs, which can destroy humanity, as a national threat. Therefore, it regards the fight against narcotic drugs as a

national responsibility and has been carrying out prevention, control and suppression measures against drug production and illegal trafficking with strong commitment, determination and continuous efforts. The narcotics trade is a major source of income for some armed groups claiming to be EAOs, and it remains a key business activity that they are unwilling to abandon. As a result, drug production and trafficking activities are still being carried out to date. We will continue to conduct effective intelligence operations and take necessary action to suppress these activities.

In conclusion, the 100-day period since the government assumed responsibility has been a historic period during which solid foundations for the future of the nation have begun to be established. We are moving forward rapidly in all sectors while upholding two priority objectives: “**achieving stability and peace in the country**” and “**achieving national development**”.

The government will build a new Union nation based on democracy and a federal system in accordance with the aspirations of the people. I would like to urge everyone not to be left behind in terms of thoughts and perspectives. I will take two years to lay the groundwork and gain momentum for building the new nation, and a further three years will be devoted to carrying out rapid development and construction efforts. I earnestly urge the entire people to actively participate and provide support together with us in all sectors for the development and construction of the nation.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Chief Justice of the Union U Tha Htay, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, the State dignitaries, speakers of region and state Hluttaws who

are members of the Myanmar Parliamentary Union, deputy ministers, lawmakers, observers from the basic diplomatic skill course 47/2026, and other 150 guests together with chief ministers of regions and states through videoconferencing.

After leaving the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw convention hall, the President responded to questions raised by the media.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe sought the Hluttaw’s approval for the President’s report on the government’s 100-day progress and formally entered it into the record.

An honorary luncheon to mark the successful completion of the Second Regular Session of the Third Hluttaw was held at the dining hall of the Hluttaw Complex. The President and those who attended the meeting had lunch together.

After the luncheon, the President cordially greeted the attendees. — MNA/TTA

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HLUTTAW

Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Second Regular Session concludes successfully

THE Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw convened for its 12th-day sitting of the Second Regular Session at the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session emphasized the speech on the 100-day progress of the government delivered by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing due to the message sent by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe's clarification on undertakings at the Second Regular Session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and his greetings.

The Hluttaw session was also attended by Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Chief Justice of the Union U Tha Htay, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Ser-



The concluding meeting of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Second Regular Session in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

vices General Ye Win Oo, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Aung Zaw Thein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Than Soe, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin, State dignitaries, deputy ministers, speakers of region and state Hluttaws and guests together with

chief ministers of regions and states through video-conferencing.

The President delivered an address on the government's 100-day progress.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker sought the Hluttaw's approval to place the speech on record, and it was duly accepted.

In his address, the Speaker said the Py-

idaungsu Hluttaw had received seven bills submitted by Union-level ministries, departments and organizations, and had enacted the Union Budget Drafting Law, 2026, and the Region or State Budget Drafting Law, 2026.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw submitted the Anti-Online Scam Bill to the President for signature. Two bills each are currently under

consideration in the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw, and they will continue to be deliberated during the Third Regular Session. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw also established the Myanmar Parliamentary Union (MPU).

The Hluttaw approved the validity of issuing the ordinances, submitting 43 points to be amended and added to the Constitution (2008), approval for avoiding the double income tax between Myanmar and Belarus, tax exemption for diesel HSD (500 ppm) and Liquefied Natural Gas, signing the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization as participation of Myanmar, discussions over the proposal urging the government to review the ASEAN Five-Point Statement, and formation of the JCAIPA and JCIPU.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

has formed the Joint Budget Vetting Committee to approve the Union Supplementary Appropriation Law for the 2026-27 financial year at the Third Regular Session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to be held in October 2026.

During the Hluttaw recess, representatives are required to visit their respective constituencies, listen to the views and concerns of the people, and make every effort to address their needs and aspirations. They must also provide the necessary assistance, to the best of their ability, to improve livelihoods and promote the socioeconomic development of their constituencies.

The Speaker announced the successful conclusion of the Second Regular Session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. — MNA/TTA

Seminar on “Reviewing Myanmar’s position and role within ASEAN” held

A Seminar titled “Reviewing Myanmar’s position and role within ASEAN” was held at the Lawkanat Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 31 July 2026. The Seminar was attended by the Union Minister and Deputy Ministers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chairpersons of the International Relations Committees of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, Hluttaw Representatives, Senior Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministries responsible for three ASEAN Community Pillars, academics and experts from the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC), Myanmar Institute of Strategic and



The Seminar on Reviewing Myanmar' position and role within ASEAN underway in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



International Studies (MISIS), National Defence College, Department of International Relations of Naypyitaw State Academy and the Department of International Relations and Political Science of Yangon University.

The permanent secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs further

stated that the discussion would focus, in particular, on ways and means to strengthen Myanmar's role within ASEAN, to address and overcome the challenges that may arise in strengthening and maintaining regular and constructive Myanmar-ASEAN relations, while integrating the

views and perspectives of experts and professionals from various fields. Afterwards, the director-general of the ASEAN Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, gave an overview presentation titled “Myanmar’s 29-Year Journey in ASEAN”.

SEE PAGE 7

Myanmar pharma successfully tests six new medicines



Union Minister Dr Charlie Than joins discussions on advancing MSME development, technology transfer and sector-specific initiatives.

MYANMAR Pharmaceutical Factory (MPF) has completed research and pilot production of six new medicines, including treatments for diabetes, HIV, cancer, bone and joint diseases, and an anaesthetic, officials announced at a ceremony held at the Research Department in Insein Township, Yangon.

Speaking at the event,

the Union Minister said the new medicines comprise two diabetes drugs, one HIV treatment, one medicine for bone and joint diseases, one cancer drug, and one anaesthetic. He said the achievement would strengthen public healthcare services while reducing reliance on imported medicines through domestic production.

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NATIONAL

Seminar on
“Reviewing Myanmar’s
position and role ...

FROM PAGE 6

In addition, participants exchanged views on Myanmar’s perspectives on ASEAN, ASEAN’s perspectives on Myanmar, and Myanmar’s role within ASEAN amid changing regional and international dynamics. They also suggested pragmatic policy recommendations to enhance Myanmar’s engagement within ASEAN and identified key priority areas for Myanmar’s cooperation with ASEAN over the next five years. The director-general of the ASEAN Affairs Department presented the summary of the recommendations and the discussion points collected from the Seminar.

The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs delivered the closing remarks, highlighting and reviewing Myanmar’s role and contributions as a responsible

Member State of ASEAN since its accession to ASEAN, including its role as the Country Coordinator for ASEAN’s external relations with Dialogue Partners. He also underscored Myanmar’s efforts to enhance Myanmar’s role and contribution within ASEAN, and maintain positive and constructive engagement with all ASEAN Member States. The Union Minister further discussed the way forward and possible roadmap for Myanmar’s continued engagement within ASEAN. In this regard, he emphasized the importance of charting long-term strategies aimed at effectively advancing and safeguarding Myanmar’s national interests, as well as formulating practical policy recommendations to bolster Myanmar’s position within ASEAN. — MoFA

115 basic education
schools open in Falam



Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo greets schoolchildren in a school class in Falam Township.

A total of 115 basic education schools are open in Falam Township, and 301 teachers are teaching 4,251 students.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo provided financial assistance to students at the No 2 Basic Education High School in Cinmul Ward, Falam Township, yesterday.

The deputy minister also inspected the process of issuing citizenship scrutiny cards, household registrations, and UIDs at the Township Office of the Ministry of Immigration and Population and gave citizenship scrutiny cards and household registrations to residents.

The Ministry of Immigration and Population has issued 823 Citizenship Scrutiny Cards in Falam Township since 6 May 2026. It is reported that 157 household censuses have been conducted. — MNA/MKKS

NSPNC and NSCN-K (AM) meet
to strengthen regional stability,
development

THE National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) held a meeting with a delegation from the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang (NSCN-K) (Ang Mai) at the Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, focusing on regional stability, development, and long-term peacebuilding initiatives in the Naga region.

Welcoming the delegation, NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae highlighted the government’s ongoing support for the Naga Self-Administered Zone, including Union budget allocations and loan programmes aimed at overcoming geographic isolation and improving infrastructure, education, and healthcare services. He emphasized that regional stability is essential for socio-economic



The meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang (NSCN-K) is underway in Nay Pyi Taw.

progress and urged the NSCN-K (Ang Mai) to prioritize peace across the region, adding that political goals could be addressed through constructive negotiations within the framework of existing laws.

In response, U Chin Maung, a Central Executive Committee member of the NSCN-K (Ang Mai) and chairman of its Peacebuilding Committee, expressed appreciation for the invitation to the peace talks. He noted

that, while conflicts persist in various parts of the country, the Naga region has remained peaceful and stable. He reiterated his group’s commitment to preserving this stability and cooperating with the government to promote sustainable development, trust-building, and mutually agreed peace arrangements.

During the session, representatives from both sides discussed practical steps to maintain regional peace, manage local po-

litical and socioeconomic affairs, establish liaison offices, arrange future high-level talks, and coordinate with the military and relevant government departments on security, ceasefire arrangements, and infrastructure projects.

NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing outlined key principles for effective participation in the peace process, emphasizing the need for a genuine commitment to peace, adherence to the 2008 Constitution, and unified efforts among local ethnic communities to ensure long-term stability and security.

The meeting concluded with closing remarks by Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and an exchange of commemorative gifts, following a vote of thanks delivered by U Chin Maung. — MNA/TH

Myitkyina’s Naungpon-Mulberry Farm
Road paving project inspected

THE Department of Rural Road Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the proposed site for the concrete paving of the Naungpon-Mulberry Farm road in Myitkyina Township. The project is being implemented to improve rural transport and provide all-weather road access for local communities.

Project Inspection and Quality Control Division (Head Office) Assistant Director (Civil) U Maung Maung Moe Win, Waingmaw Township Department of Rural Road



Officials inspect the proposed site for the concrete paving of the village access road in Myitkyina Township.

Development Head U Dewa Aung and engineering staff examined the project site where a five-fur-long section of the village access road connected to

the Naungpon-Mulberry Farm Road will be upgraded to a 16-foot-wide and seven-inch-thick concrete pavement. They also met representatives of the

tender-winning Aung Dan Family Company and instructed them to ensure the work is completed on schedule and in accordance with required quality standards.

The concrete road project will be implemented using funds allocated under the State Budget for the 2026-2027 financial year, under the technical guidance and close supervision of township DRRD officials together with the winning company. Upon completion, the road will benefit 752 households and 4,193 residents in the two villages, providing reliable year-round access. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

Uphold discipline leading to progress

THE development of a country largely depends on the level of discipline practised by its citizens. When citizens have a high level of discipline, the country will achieve greater development and progress. Being disciplined means carrying out all duties and responsibilities that should be performed for the motherland and avoiding actions that should not be done. The practice of discipline by citizens is, in itself, a contribution towards promoting the country's development and progress.

When we study every successful enterprise, we can see that the people involved work together in unity under the leadership

and management of the person in charge. The dedication and commitment of every worker towards their work is the foundation of success. In particular, the key factors behind the growth and success of any enterprise are the basic principles of unity, diligence and dedication in work, and good discipline.

When we study developed countries today, we can see that people living in those countries must maintain discipline in their daily lives and activities. They comply with and practice the laws and regulations issued by their respective countries. If they violate them, they face effective penalties and legal action. They work while receiving appropriate wages. As education, health-care, social affairs, and other sectors are systematically implemented in accordance with established standards, these countries have achieved continuous development.

By following and carrying out duties in accordance with discipline, people will accomplish all good deeds throughout their life journey and gain positive outcomes. Living with awareness and mindfulness prevents negative and wrongful thoughts from entering the mind and heart, allowing only goodness and truth to prevail. As a result, the mind and heart become pure and clear, and correct understanding and perspectives regarding the world around us will emerge. Therefore, in order to maintain proper and noble attitudes and beliefs, everyone must respect, value, and consistently follow discipline.

When discipline is always respected and observed, it brings about the benefit of strengthening unity and solidarity. By following and acting in accordance with discipline, people uphold all the ethical principles and responsibilities they should maintain towards one another. They are also able to faithfully fulfil their social duties and obligations to each other. These factors represent the development of mutual unity and solidarity among people.

Therefore, as the saying goes, "Discipline leads to progress", all citizens must continue to strive to become a disciplined people so that they can build the motherland into a peaceful, prosperous, modern, and developed nation. This is an earnest encouragement and appeal to all.

WE OFTEN admire people who never complain. They continue working when they are exhausted, smile even when life feels overwhelming, and quietly carry responsibilities that few people notice. From the outside, they appear strong and capable. Yet behind those smiles, many are carrying emotional burdens that no one can see.

Perhaps this is one of the greatest ironies of modern life. We spend so much time listening to the needs of others that we forget to listen to ourselves. We carefully care for our families, support our friends, and meet endless responsibilities, but we rarely stop to ask a simple question: How are we really feeling?

Many of us believe that feeling constantly tired, anxious, or physically uncomfortable is simply part of getting older. We tell ourselves that these are natural changes that everyone must accept. While age certainly affects our bodies, it is not always the only explanation. Sometimes what we experience is not a disease at all. Sometimes it is the result of years of stress, worry, and emotions that have quietly accumulated inside us.

Over the past few years, I

have noticed more and more women in their forties and fifties facing health problems. Every time I hear another friend talk about chronic pain, constant fatigue, or an unexpected illness, I cannot help feeling saddened. What surprises me most is that many of these women once appeared energetic and healthy. They rarely complained, rarely rested, and always seemed to put everyone else's needs before their own.

As I listened to their stories, I realized that very few of them became ill overnight.

Most had spent years carrying invisible burdens. They worked hard to build successful careers. They devoted themselves to raising children. They cared for ageing parents, supported their husbands, and managed countless responsibilities every single day. They became experts at solving other people's problems while quietly ignoring their own.

Whenever life became difficult, they simply endured it. They hid disappointment behind polite smiles. They swallowed anger to avoid conflict. They buried sadness because they believed there was no time to deal with it. Little by little, those unspo-

The Burden Behind the Smile

By Laura Htet (UDE)



ken emotions became part of daily life.

Years passed, and after twenty or even thirty years of endless giving, many found themselves living in bodies that felt exhausted long before they had expected. These experiences have taught me something important. Our emotions are not separate from our physical health. They are closely connected, whether we realize it or not.

Modern medical research continues to show that long-term stress, sadness, anxiety, and other negative emotions can influence the body in many ways. Chronic stress may weaken the immune system, increase inflammation, and reduce the body's ability to repair damaged cells. Over time, these changes may increase the risk of developing chronic illnesses.

This does not mean that every illness is caused by stress alone. Many diseases have complex medical causes and require

proper diagnosis and treatment. However, it reminds us that caring for our emotional well-being is just as important as eating nutritious food, exercising regularly, or getting enough sleep.

Perhaps this is why our bodies sometimes send us quiet messages before they begin shouting.

We may feel tired almost every day, no matter how much we sleep. We may struggle to fall asleep or wake up several times during the night. Our shoulders and neck may remain tense

from morning until bedtime. Our stomach may feel uncomfortable without any clear reason. Small problems may suddenly seem overwhelming, and we may feel anxious or emotionally drained more often than before.

Sometimes medical examinations tell us that everything is normal, yet we still know that something is different. We cannot always explain it, but deep inside, we feel that our bodies are asking us to pay attention.

Instead of dismissing these feelings as "just getting old-

er", perhaps we should pause and ask ourselves whether our hearts have been carrying too much for too long.

This message is especially meaningful for those who have spent years being the strong one in every situation. Some people have learned to remain silent through hardship, believing that patience is always the right choice. Others have become so accustomed to taking care of everyone else that they no longer recognize their own exhaustion.

Strength is a beautiful quality, but true strength also includes knowing when to rest. There is one simple truth that deserves to stay with us:

Our emotions are never too small to matter.

Every worry we ignore, every disappointment we hide, and every painful experience we refuse to acknowledge leaves a quiet mark on both our minds and our bodies. While our minds shape our physical health, our

bodies faithfully reflect what our hearts have been carrying.

Some illnesses do not suddenly appear without warning. Sometimes they are the result of years of accumulated stress and emotional fatigue. Likewise, some physical pain may not simply be a problem with muscles, joints, or organs. It may also be a quiet reminder that we have neglected ourselves for far too long.

Fortunately, healing often begins with small choices rather than dramatic changes.

Perhaps tonight we can give ourselves just ten peaceful minutes. We can put our phones aside, breathe deeply, soak our feet in warm water, read a few pages of a favourite book, or simply sit quietly without rushing to the next task. These moments may seem small, but they remind us that we also deserve the same care we willingly give to others.

Taking care of ourselves is not selfish. It is an investment in the people we love. When we are physically healthy and emotionally balanced, we have more energy, patience, and joy to share with our families. We become stronger companions, kinder parents, better friends, and more resilient partners.

Perhaps the greatest lesson is this: our bodies never stop communicating with us. Every ache, every sleepless night, every moment of unexplained exhaustion may be more than a physical symptom. It may be a quiet conversation between our hearts and our bodies – a reminder that both deserve our attention.

Life will always bring responsibilities, challenges, and moments of sacrifice. We cannot avoid every difficulty, but we can choose not to lose ourselves while caring for everyone else. The strongest people are not those who never become tired. They are those who understand that rest is not weakness, asking for help is not failure, and self-care is not selfishness.

In the end, our greatest responsibility is not only to care for those we love but also to care for the person who makes all that love possible – ourselves. When our hearts find peace, our bodies often find strength. And when both are cared for with kindness, we give ourselves the greatest gift of all: the opportunity to live longer, healthier, and happier lives with the people who matter most.

The Role of Young Citizens in Building a Better Future

By Maung Lumaw Oo



YOUNG citizens are the future of every country. Even though they are young, they can make a big difference through their actions, ideas, and good behaviour. By learning, helping others, and caring for their communities, young people can help build a better future.

First, education is one of the most important responsibilities of young citizens. By studying hard, they gain knowledge and skills that will help them in the

future. They can become doctors, teachers, engineers, scientists, or leaders who improve society. Education also teaches young people how to solve problems and make good decisions.

Young citizens should also care for the environment. They can protect nature by planting trees, reducing plastic waste, recycling, and keeping their surroundings clean. These simple actions help keep the Earth healthy for future generations. Protecting nature is everyone's

responsibility, and young people can set a good example for others.

Helping the community is another important role. Young people can volunteer, support people in need, and join community activities. Even small acts of kindness, such as helping an elderly neighbour or cleaning a public park, can make a positive difference. When young citizens work together, they create stronger and happier communities.

In today's world, young people also use the internet and social media every day. They should use these tools wisely by sharing positive messages, respecting others, and avoiding false information. Responsible

online behaviour helps create a safer and more friendly digital community.

Finally, young citizens should respect the law, care for others, and appreciate different cultures and traditions. Honesty, kindness, and responsibility are important values that help build trust and peace in society.

In conclusion, young citizens have an important role in building a better future. Through education, environmental protection, community service, and responsible behaviour, they can create positive change. Every small action matters, and today's young citizens can become tomorrow's responsible leaders.



Within Reach

By Thihathayna

If I had a burning desire
Like a drowning man gasping for air
If I had diligence
Like an ant
If I gathered knowledge
Like a bee
If I ran
Like a deer ahead of a lion

I could number
All the stars in the sky
Fetch all the water in the ocean
And move mountains beyond the horizon

NATIONAL

Myanmar's Position Statement on Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Public Statement Issued on 19 June 2026

1. On 19 June 2026, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) issued a Public Statement regarding Myanmar.

2. Myanmar has observed from the Public Statement that the FATF notes that fraud and cyberscam activities in Myanmar remain extensive and present significant illicit finance risks, despite some steps Myanmar has taken to tackle fraud and cyberscam operations, including the formation of a national committee to combat online fraud and gambling and strengthening regional and international cooperation. The FATF calls on Myanmar to take appropriate action to address the illicit finance risks associated with fraud and cyberscam threats and will continue to work with Myanmar in this regard. In tackling these illicit finance threats, Myanmar should have due regard for the victims of trafficking by criminal groups.

3. Myanmar fully recognizes that online scams and cyber-enabled frauds not only facilitate money laundering but also undermine the integrity of the financial system, serve as regional security threats and have adverse impacts on countries within the region and beyond.

4. The Central Bank of Myanmar, through Notification 9/2020 dated 15 May 2020, has prohibited the use of cryptocurrencies as legal tender. To date, investigations have not identified evidence that cryptocurrencies generated from online scams have been diverted into Myanmar's regulated financial system. As many illicit financial transactions are conducted through financial systems outside Myanmar, Myanmar considers that effectively mitigating regional financial risks requires enhanced regional and international cooperation.

5. While the Government of Myanmar has designated the prevention and suppression of online scams and online gambling as a national duty, Myanmar has been actively implementing a range of measures. These measures include the establishment of the Central Supervisory Committee for the Prevention and Suppression of Online Scams and Online Gambling; efforts to establish the National Anti-Scam Centre (ASC); the proceeding to enact an Anti-On-

line Scam Law; the enactment of a new Anti-Money Laundering Law in 2026; extensive investigations and prosecutions of individuals involved in online scams and cyber-enabled fraud; the repatriation of victims of online scams, including foreign nationals identified during law enforcement operations, to their respective countries; the deportation of foreign nationals who entered Myanmar illegally to the relevant countries, following due process under domestic law and on the basis of humanitarian considerations and friendly relations between states; the destruction of buildings, infrastructure, and electronic devices used in online scam centres to prevent their re-establishment; and active bilateral, regional, and international cooperation with neighbouring countries and international partners. These efforts have also been communicated through official public announcements and presented at regional and international meetings.

6. Myanmar also continues to strengthen capacity-building and information-sharing by enhancing intelligence-sharing mechanisms, strengthening cooperation among law enforcement agencies, implementing training programmes, and reinforcing operational coordination and collaboration among the relevant authorities.

7. Furthermore, Myanmar remains firmly committed to implementing the FATF Recommendations to address the remaining Action Items under the FATF process. Since its designation as a High-Risk Jurisdiction Subject to a Call for Action in October 2022, Myanmar has submitted its 17th Progress Report to the Asia-Pacific Joint Group (APJG). Myanmar has actively participated in APJG face-to-face meetings and FATF Plenary meetings. Of the 15 Action Items, Myanmar has addressed 13, with 2 Action Items remaining under the Action Plan. These developments demonstrate that Myanmar's High-Level authorities continue to show strong political commitment and determination to address the remaining Action Items.

8. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report, "Inflection Point: Global Implications of Scam Centres, Underground Banking

and Illicit Online Marketplaces in South-East Asia (April 2025)", online scam networks have expanded by exploiting inaccessible areas, territories under the control of non-State armed groups, Special Economic Zones (SEZs), and other vulnerable border areas across South-East Asia. The report further notes that these criminal operations have spread beyond the Mekong region to Africa, South America, the Pacific, and the Middle East. Myanmar recognizes that the online scam activities occurring within its territory are part of broader transnational online scam networks operating across multiple regions.

9. In conclusion, Myanmar reaffirms its unwavering commitment to combatting money laundering, terrorist financing, proliferation financing, online scams, and cyber-enabled fraud. Myanmar will continue to strengthen its legal, regulatory, and operational framework in compliance with the FATF Recommendations and international standards, enhance its operational capabilities, and deepen international cooperation. Myanmar respectfully requests that its continued efforts, the progress it has achieved, and the strong political commitment it has consistently demonstrated be duly taken into consideration in future assessments and discussions.

10. Furthermore, Myanmar calls upon the international community to continue providing technical assistance, information-sharing, and capacity-building support to all countries affected by transnational organized criminal groups, on the basis that no single country can effectively address these challenges alone, consistent with the principle of shared responsibility.

11. Myanmar will continue to cooperate closely with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, and other relevant international partners, to safeguard the integrity of the international financial system and effectively combat transnational financial crime.
- Anti-Money Laundering Central Body
31 July 2026
Nay Pyi Taw

Myanmar pharma successfully tests six ...

FROM PAGE 6

The ceremony marked the successful completion of research and pilot production of the six medicines. MPF's Managing Director officially opened the event, while the Research Department's General Manager presented an overview of the development process. Attendees also toured an exhibition showcasing the new medicines and observed their production.

Later in the day, ministry officials held a separate meeting to discuss support measures for MSME development, including technology transfer and sector-specific initiatives. The meeting was attended by Union ministers, deputy ministers, senior officials, and other government representatives. — MNA/ST

No plans yet for Yangon-Rakhine coastal freight service

DEPUTY Minister for Transport U Tun Lu told the Amyotha Hluttaw on 30 July that there are currently no plans to operate coastal freight vessels between Yangon and Rakhine State.

He replied to the question put by Amyotha Hluttaw MP U Mya Lin from Constituency 2, Rakhine State.

At present, no coast-



A freight vessel destined for Rakhine State.

al freight vessels are available. However, the deputy minister said the Ministry of Transport would consider procur-

ing coastal freight vessels and operating services to economically important destinations, subject to the availability of funding.

Private cargo vessels and naval vessels are currently being used to transport freight between Yangon and Rakhine State. The deputy minister said domestic flights continue to operate daily, despite certain restrictions, to facilitate public travel. He added that the Rakhine State Government will verify residents with medical needs or financial difficulties and allow eligible passengers to travel on the freight vessels. — TWA/ZS

NATIONAL

Pindaya's MSY village project loans disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Koelong Village, Pindaya Township, yesterday.

Danu Self-Administered Zone Department of Rural Development Head Daw Aye Aye Thein explained that the revolving funds were provided under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project with the objectives of creating employment opportunities and increasing family incomes for rural residents, as well as implementing village development activities with the increased revolving funds. Pindaya Township Department of Rural Development Head

U Aung Kyaw and officials then explained project activities, interest rates, repayment periods and rules and regulations to be followed, and handed over K54.3 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation groups.

Koelong Village is implementing family income-generating activities using K54.3 million from the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project. Under the supervision of the township department, members of the project implementation groups disbursed the revolving loans at low interest rates to a total of 65 members from the village, including 58 people engaged in agricultural activities and seven in livestock breeding. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

Laymyathna residents warned to evacuate following Ngawun Dam breach

FOLLOWING a breach in the Ngawun Dam in Laymyathna Township, the Ayeyawady Region government issued an emergency warning on 31 July, urging residents in flood-prone areas in and around the township to evacuate immediately.

According to the Fire Services Department, at approximately 10:42 pm on 30 July, a 50-foot stretch of the Ngawun River embankment breached. Following the breach, firefighters led by the Hinthada District Fire Services Officer, alongside relevant organizations, have been monitoring water levels and conducting embankment reinforcement work.

On 31 July, search and rescue personnel have

been helping households in the areas including Ward 3, Ward 4, and Ward 5 evacuate safely to secure locations. River water has already begun flowing about 2.5 feet deep into the inside of the embankment following the breach.

Residents living near low-lying quarters and agricultural land subject to flooding are urged to urgently evacuate to safe high grounds and designated relief camps. Furthermore, the region government has advised the public to avoid panicking, to strictly follow the emergency instructions of authorities, and to immediately contact ward/village-tract administration teams for assistance if they encounter difficulties. — MT/ZN

India-Myanmar-Thailand Trade Route Fully Reopens

MYANMAR'S Tatmadaw has announced that it has regained control of the Kalewa-Yargyi-Monywa and Kalay-Tamu Road sections, reopening a key transport corridor linking Myanmar with India and Thailand for regional trade and connectivity.

The military affirmed that the Kalewa-Yargyi-Monywa route, which had been temporarily controlled by armed groups, was reopened on 7 July, while the Kalay-Tamu Road section was reopened on 31 July after government forces regained control of the area.

The two routes serve as important land links connecting northwestern Myanmar with India and play a significant role in border trade, transportation, local economic development, and international connectivity. The routes are used to transport goods from Myanmar to overseas markets and



This map, with an inset, shows Tatmadaw columns regaining control of the Kalewa-Yargyi-Monywa and Kalay-Tamu road sections, fully reopening the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trade Corridor.

bring imported goods into the country.

According to the military statement, operations to regain control of the Kalay-Tamu Road began after preparations were made in June. Military columns conducted security and territorial control operations, eventually linking up at Yantineang Village and reopening the entire road corridor.

The military said 78 clashes occurred during the operation and that casualties and weapons belonging to armed groups were seized. It also reported that some military personnel were killed during the fighting.

Following the reopening, authorities and military personnel are working to repair damaged government buildings, bridges, roads, and other

infrastructure. Officials said the reopening would support border trade with India, regional transportation, electricity access, and the restoration of public services, including healthcare and education.

The military also stated that it was carrying out rehabilitation efforts, including debris removal and mine clearance, to help residents return to their villages. — MNA/ST

Waingmaw's Maina-Gwehtu road paving project inspected



Officials inspect the proposed site for the concrete paving of a village access road in Waingmaw Township.

THE Department of Rural Road Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the proposed site

provide all-weather road access for local communities.

Project Inspection and Quality Control Division (Head Office) Assistant Director (Civil) U Maung Maung Moe Win, Waingmaw Township Department of Rural Road Development Head U Dewa Aung and engineering staff examined the project site where a five-furlong section of the village access road connecting Maina Village and Gwehtu (Hmanpya Hill) Village will be upgraded to a 16-foot-wide and seven-inch-thick concrete pavement. They also met with representatives of the

tender-winning Jar Shar It Company. Officials also instructed them to ensure the work is completed on schedule and in line with required quality standards.

The concrete road project will be implemented using funds allocated under the State Budget for the 2026-2027 financial year, under the technical guidance and close supervision of township DRRD officials together with the winning company. Upon completion, the road will benefit 793 households and 3,447 residents in the two villages, providing reliable year-round access. — Karan (Rural)

NATIONAL

2nd Inspection and Quality Control Training launches in Aug



This image displays a poster for the Inspection and Quality Control Training.

THE Inspection and Quality Control Training batch 2 will be opened at the Myanmar Garment Human Resources Development Training Centre (MGHRDC) from 17 to 28 August, according to the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA).

The course encompasses qualifications, basic knowledge on terms and conditions, required equipment for quality control inspection, inspection techniques for all garment styles and items, quality control management and fundamental norms and other information that are required for a QC. Experienced trainers from Maple Trading and Myanmar GF Co Ltd will lead the training course.

The training will start from 9 am to 4 pm and the course fee is K100,000, said MGMA. Interested applicants can contact MGHRDC located in Insein Township via 09 795405583, 09 940858350 and 09 770289289. — MT/ZS

YGN palm oil wholesale reference price steady for 3rd straight weeks

THE wholesale reference price of palm oil set for the Yangon market remains unchanged for a third consecutive week at K7,220 per viss from 17 July to 6 August, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly. Despite the reference price, the market price is still high. To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department



Cooking oil bottles are neatly organized for distribution and sale.

under the Ministry of Commerce has informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The Committee notified

that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law. The department is working together with the Myanmar

Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers. The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are annually imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

CBM sells US\$5M to LNG-importing companies

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$5 million to LNG-importing companies on 30 July, in addition to an injection of US\$5,000 to companies working on a Cut, Make, and Pack basis on that day.

CBM pumped over \$304,400 to CMP companies on 28 July. CBM sold over \$4.36 million to edible oil-importing companies, five million dollars to LNG-importing companies and over \$9,000 to CMP companies on 27 July.

CBM also injected over \$2.44 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$119,000 to CMP companies on 24 July, and over \$2.7 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$17,000 to CMP companies on 23 July, respectively.

CBM pumped over \$35 million, purchased from CMP companies, into the foreign exchange market in June, and over \$51 million and 1.2 million baht into the foreign

exchange market in May. CBM sold over \$70 million and 28.8 million baht in April.

CBM injects foreign currencies into the forex market to regulate currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private



banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

DEMU Train Debuts on Yangon-Pyay Route

FROM PAGE 1

DEMU train sets on the Yangon-Pyay railway section, as part of the government's 100-Day Plan, held at Platform 1 of the Yangon Railway Station yesterday morning.

He said that it was a significant and memorable day as the Yangon-Pyay railway section was the first railway line in Myanmar where train services were introduced on 1 May 1877. He added that Myanmar Railways is a strategic-

ly important public transportation service, and the government is working to expand public transport systems and provide affordable transportation services for the people.

He said that the President has given strong guidance to continuously upgrade and improve railways, roads, bridges and other infrastructure facilities to ensure smoother and more convenient passenger and freight transport services.

The ceremony was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu, the Yangon Command Commander, regional ministers, Deputy Minister for Transport U Aung Myaing, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transport, officials, guests and town elders.

The ceremony officially began at 4:40 am, followed by the screening of a documentary video highlighting the history and development of Myanmar Railways

throughout different periods.

Moreover, the opening ceremony for the modern DEMU train set of Up Train No 73 on the Yangon-Pyay route was held with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, a traditional blessing ceremony by sprinkling scented water on the locomotive, and the presentation of commemorative gifts to passengers. At 5:30 am, the Union Minister pressed the button to officially allow the DEMU train No 73 to leave Yangon

Railway Station for Pyay.

Deputy Minister U Aung Myaing and party travelled with passengers to Pyay. Along the route, the residents warmly welcomed and greeted the train at the stations where it stopped.

The deputy minister and party arrived at Pyay Railway Station at 11:30 am. A ceremony to launch the Down Train No 74 air-conditioned DEMU service from Pyay to Yangon was held at Platform 1 of the Pyay Railway Station. Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win and the Deputy Minister for Transport delivered

opening remarks, greeted passengers travelling to Yangon and presented commemorative gifts.

The newly launched Yangon-Pyay-Yangon DEMU trains will depart from Yangon Railway Station daily at 5:30 am and arrive at Pyay Railway Station at 11:30 am. The return train will leave Pyay Railway Station at 1 pm and arrive back at Yangon Railway Station at 7 pm. The total travel time is about six hours, and the Yangon-Pyay-Yangon route will operate as a round-trip service — MNA/KTZH

Adidas shares plunge after World Cup marketing eats into profit

GERMAN sportswear maker Adidas missed profit expectations on Thursday after it reported results weighed by the costs of World Cup marketing, putting its shares on track for their largest ever one-day decline.

Core profit came in at 574 million euros (\$657 million) for the three months to the end of June, Adidas said, higher than last year but about eight percent below expectations when compared to a poll of analysts by financial platform FactSet.

The company's shares were down almost 18 per cent as of 1030 GMT. Adidas spent over 200 million euros more on marketing than this time last year as it developed a World Cup campaign that brought in footballing stars like Lionel Messi, Lamine Yamal and Jude



Core profit came in at 574 million euros (\$657 million) for the three months to the end of June, Adidas said.
PHOTO: AFP/FILE
Bellingham — bringing almost one billion euros total marketing outlays to for the quarter. — AFP

Nepal platform delivers Chinese goods directly to consumers

CHYNABAZAR.COM, a new e-commerce platform serving Nepali consumers with products made in China, was launched in Nepal on Wednesday.

In Nepal, imported goods typically reach consumers through multiple layers of the supply chain, including importers, wholesalers, and distributors. This often results in higher prices and uncertainty in product availability, Stutee Shrestha, CEO of Chynabazar, said during the launch event.

“Every link in that chain — from sourcing, importing, and warehousing to delivery — sits under one roof,” Shrestha added. — Xinhua

Toyota remains top automaker in 1st-half global sales

TOYOTA Motor Corp on Thursday retained top spot in first-half global sales in 2026 for the seventh straight year, with its group companies selling 5.39 million vehicles worldwide to outperform German rival Volkswagen AG.

Global sales in the January-June period, however, fell 2.8 per cent from a year earlier, marking the first year-on-year decline in two years, reflecting sluggish demand in China hit by higher gasoline prices amid tensions in the Middle East.

Volkswagen sold roughly 4.13 million units in the same period.

With logistics disruptions stemming from the Middle East situation also weighing on operations, the Toyota group's global output edged down 0.3 per cent to 5.51 million vehicles in the first half. Toyota alone saw its exports from Japan to the Middle East drop 36.0 per cent to 104,093 cars.

The group's overseas sales dropped 4.5 per cent to 4.30 million vehicles, while domestic sales totalled 1.10 million units, up 4.4 per cent, driven by strong sales of new models such as the bZ4X electric vehicle.

Toyota's global sales of electrified vehicles, led by hybrid vehicles, grew 9.1 per cent to 2.71 million cars, while EV sales jumped about 2.4-fold to 193,172 vehicles, both marking record highs for the first half. — Kyodo



File photo shows a Toyota Motor Corp flag at its headquarters in Toyota, Aichi Prefecture, on 12 June 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

TENDER NOTICE

- China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (Myanmar Limited) is inviting tenders for a subcontract of Precast Pile Foundation Works.
- Precast Square Pile Specification:
 - Size – (250x250) mm and (350x350) mm with a length of 20m
 - Total Length – 87,597m
- Scope of Work: Pile foundation works (except for the precast square piles, connectors, and pile shoes/tips which will be provided by the tenderer), all other materials, labor, and equipment shall be arranged by the pile foundation subcontractor at its own discretion.
- Bid Submission Deadline: August 16, 2026
- Tender Submission Address: BP-2, Shwe Zabu River View Condo, Kyee Myindaing Kanner Road, Alone Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
- Contact Information:
 - Email: yuhuiguan53@gmail.com
 - Phone: +95(9)696810283

Notice for change of distributor

We, Yingde Greatchem Chemicals Co., Ltd, would like to change the Distributor of the following product, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from Shwe Taung International Trading Co., Ltd to MYANMAR AGD AGRO CO., LTD. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from here to next two weeks.

No	Old Distributor	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg. Type	Reg. Number	New Distributor
1	Shwe Taung International Trading Co., Ltd	Great Azo-D 325 SC	Azoxystrobin 20% + Difenconazole 12.5% SC	Full	F2025-4873	MYANMAR AGD AGRO CO., LTD

MYANMAR AGD AGRO CO., LTD. (Address: NO.6B407 YADANAR HNINSI RESIDENCE, DAGON SEIKKAN TOWNSHIP, YANGON REGION, MYANMAR. Ph no .09403723854)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC RUIDE VOY.NO. (2614S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC RUIDE VOY.NO. (2614S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0054N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0054N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS



Germany demands Morocco ‘take back illegal migrants immediately’ from Spain’s Ceuta

GERMAN Chancellor Friedrich Merz demanded Friday that Morocco “take back illegal migrants immediately” after tens of thousands of people crossed the border into Spain’s north African enclave Ceuta in recent days.

Merz in a statement said he welcomed “Spain’s intention not to allow the illegal migrants onto the European continent” and added that “we expect Morocco to take the illegal migrants back immediately”.

The conservative leader of the EU’s biggest economy, who took power last year, has vowed to be tough on irregular migration, an issue that has driven support for the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD).

“Protecting the Eu-

Protecting the European Union’s external borders is crucial for combatting illegal migration.



Migrants gather along the fence at the site of clashes near Fnideq, on the Morocco-Spain border, on 31 July 2026. PHOTO: AFP

ropean Union’s external borders is crucial for combatting illegal migration,” he added in the statement. “I clearly expect all EU member states to fulfil this obligation. “We are in contact with the Spanish government regarding this matter. Spain wants to — and must — bring the situation in Ceuta under control as quickly as possible.” — AFP

US officials say Hamas agrees to disarm under Gaza roadmap

HAMAS has agreed for the first time to a detailed roadmap to surrender its weapons and give up any governing role in Gaza, according to US officials, who described it as the most significant breakthrough since the ceasefire began.

A draft plan released on Thursday outlines a phased process that would begin within 14 days of formal approval by all parties. President Donald Trump announced the development on Truth Social, after which senior US and international officials briefed reporters on the details.

Officials said the roadmap builds on a pre-

viously agreed 20-point Gaza peace plan, converting it into a phased implementation framework after eight months of negotiations that followed the release of hostages and the return of bodies.

At the centre of the plan is a transitional Palestinian body, the

National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG), which would take over civilian and security responsibilities during the transition period. Officials said the plan leaves “no grey zone” on disarmament, with weapons to be placed under NCAG con-

trol rather than handed to Israel or rival Palestinian factions.

The process is designed to proceed without reliance on trust. Each stage is conditional and must be verified by an independent Implementation and Verification Committee before moving forward.

“We’re not relying on the trust of anyone,” one official said. “We’re trying to make everything conditions-based and verified. We’re just going to move forward. Some days we’ll pick up a lot of ground. Some days we’ll pick up a little ground. But this was a big step forward, which we worked really hard to get to.” — ANI



Hamas security forces stand guard at Erez border crossing into Israel, in Beit Hanun, in the northern Gaza Strip on 26 March 2017. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

H5N1 bird flu threatens SA sea lions

A growing outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza in South Australia (SA) will “almost certainly” spread to an endangered species of sea lion, an expert has warned.

Authorities in SA reported that Australia’s first suspected case of the highly pathogenic strain in a seagull has been detected on the state’s southeast coast.

It takes the total number of suspected cases of the strain in SA to 21 in addition to 19 confirmed cases.

As of Friday, the rest of Australia’s states and territories had reported 14 confirmed cases of the strain, which was first detected on the mainland in

June.

Of the 40 confirmed or suspected cases in SA, 33 have been reported since Monday, including four that were detected on Kangaroo Island off the state’s south coast.

One of the Kangaroo Island cases was detected at Seal Bay, which is home to about five per cent of the global population of the endangered Australian sea lion. Wayne Boardman, a wildlife veterinarian from the University of Adelaide, told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation on Friday that historical events in South America have shown that sea lions and fur seals are particularly susceptible to the strain.

— Xinhua



Australian sea lions, along with Australian and New Zealand fur seals, are the only pinniped species that breed on and around Australia’s mainland and islands. PHOTO: AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC

Madagascar and Comoros restore direct air links after four-year hiatus

MADAGASCAR and the Comoros officially restored direct air links on Thursday after a four-year suspension, marking a new step in strengthening bilateral cooperation.

According to a statement issued by Madagascar Airlines, the inaugural flight of the restored air service was operated by an ATR 72 aircraft on the Antananarivo-Mahajanga-Moroni route. The service will operate twice a week on Thursdays and

Sundays, providing a new air travel option between Madagascar and the Comoros.

The reopening of the route is expected to facilitate passenger mobility while boosting bilateral economic, commercial and tourism exchanges, the company added.

Direct flights between Madagascar and the Comoros were suspended in July 2022, with Madagascar citing public health concerns. — Xinhua

SPORTS

YG MLBB receives K200M reward

YANGON Galacticos (YG) MLBB has received an initial reward of K200 million from KBZ Bank and KBZPay after reaching the semifinals of the Esports World Cup (EWC) 2026 in France with an unbeaten record, the Myanmar Electronic Sports Federation (MESF) announced.

The reward was presented by Nang Leng Kham and Nang Kham Naung, honorary patrons of MESF representing KBZ Bank and KBZPay.

Representing Myanmar, YG advanced through the group stage by defeating Saudi Arabia's Geekay Esports 2-0 and Cambodia's PRO Esports 2-0 before sweeping PRO Esports 3-0 in the quarterfinals. The team will face the

Philippines' Team Falcons PH in the semifinals on 1 August.

YG's organization also made history at the EWC 2025 when its PUBG Mobile squad won the world championship. Following that triumph, KBZ Bank and KBZPay awarded the team nine plots of land in Taunggyi and K1 billion in prize money.

KBZ Bank and KBZPay have supported Myanmar esports since 2018, contributing more than K7 billion in total, including K2.2 billion this year. MESF said the latest K200 million awards would support both YG MLBB and the continued development of esports in Myanmar. — Thitsa (MNA)/KZL



Awards from KBZ Bank and KBZPay for the YG MLBB team.

Yangon Galacticos reach EWC 2026 Grand Final

MYANMAR'S Yangon Galacticos (YG) MLBB team is just one victory away from the Esports World Cup (EWC) 2026 title after edging the Philippines' Team Falcons PH 3-2 in a thrilling semi-final in France.

YG booked its place in the Grand Final with an unbeaten run through the tournament. The team opened the group stage with a 2-0 win over Saudi Arabia's Geekay Esports, followed by another 2-0 victory against Cambodia's PRO Esports. It then swept PRO Esports 3-0 in the quarter-finals before surviving a nail-biting five-game clash with Team Falcons PH in the semi-finals.

Awaiting YG in the Grand Final will be the winner of the other semi-fi-



The Yangon Galacticos celebrates their victory.

nal between Team Spirit of Russia and Indonesia's ONIC Esports.

After YG's PUBG Mobile squad won the EWC 2025 world championship, the organization now has another opportunity to bring the title back to Myanmar.

"Our players have proven they belong among the world's elite. We are now just one step away from the championship, and we believe YG can bring the trophy home to Myanmar," said Myanmar Electronic Sports Federation President Dr Kaung Myat San.

The EWC 2026 Grand Final will be played at 6 pm on 1 August. — Thitsa (MNA)/KZL

Maresca aims to bring 'new concepts' to first Man City match



Enzo Maresca took over from the legendary Pep Guardiola, who steered Manchester City to 20 trophies. **PHOTO: AFP**

MANCHESTER City manager Enzo Maresca said on Friday people may be quick to judge his side, as

he prepared for his first game in charge since succeeding Pep Guardiola.

The Italian formally took over last month following the departure of the legendary Catalan, who steered the club to 20 trophies during a supremely successful decade at the Etihad Stadium.

Maresca will lead City out for the first time in a pre-season friendly against Inter Milan in Hong Kong on Saturday.

"We're going to be judged, always — not just tomorrow," the former Chelsea and Leicester boss said at a news conference.

"We started 10 days ago, all together, we are introducing some new concepts, so it's also important tomorrow to see something.

"I don't believe in copy and paste. I think every manager (is) different... so it's my target, my duty, to try to introduce some new ideas." — AFP

Spaniard Santi Denia takes over as Czech Republic coach

SANTI Denia, who guided his native Spain to 2024 Olympic gold, has been appointed head coach of the Czech Republic, the national federation (FACR) announced on Friday.

"The 52-year-old Spaniard has agreed a two-year contract with an option to extend," said the FACR in a statement, adding that Santi was the country's first foreign coach.

He replaces Miroslav Koubek, who stepped down after the recent World Cup where the Czechs finished bottom of their group.

The statement added that Pablo Amo, who like Santi coached in Qatar last season, had been appointed as assistant coach.

Denia, a former centre-back who played for Albacete and Atletico Madrid, coached Spain to European under-17 and under-19 titles



Santi Denia coaching Spain to victory in the 2024 Olympic gold-medal match. **PHOTO: AFP**

Chelsea fined £10M, handed suspended transfer ban for breaching agent rules

CHELSEA were fined £10 million (\$13.4 million) and given a suspended two-window transfer ban on Friday after an appeal hearing into sanctions imposed for multiple breaches of Football Association rules.

The Premier League club were

initially given a suspended six-point deduction along with a fine, but the points penalty has now been replaced by the suspended registration ban.

The club had admitted to 74 breaches of FA regulations covering agents, working with intermediaries

and third-party investment in players.

Owners Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital self-reported the breaches to football authorities in 2022, when they were in the process of buying the club from Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich. — AFP

and, after replacing Luis de la Fuente in charge of the Olympic team, to gold in Paris.

"I'm delighted to be here. And I'm extremely motivated, because I see the chance to lead the Czech national team as a great opportunity. Czech football has a glorious history," Santi told the FACR website. "I have just one wish: to get down to work as soon as possible." — AFP

Germany demands Morocco 'take back illegal migrants immediately' from Spain's Ceuta

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WORLD

Iranian FM urges Bulgaria, Cyprus not to let US use bases for anti-Iran attacks

IRANIAN Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on Thursday urged Bulgaria and Cyprus not to allow the United States to use military bases on their territories for attacks against Iran, according to ministry statements.

In a phone call with Bulgarian Foreign Minister Velislava Petrova, Araghchi said Bulgaria's parliamentary approval of US tanker aircraft deployment at Bezmer Air Base

to support "aggressive operations against Iran" violates international law and friendly bilateral ties.

He cited UN General Assembly Resolution 3314, which considers making territory available for aggression against a third state as an act of aggression. Petrova said Bulgaria has no intention of participating in war against Iran, and supports diplomacy to reduce regional tensions. — Xinhua



On 16 July 2024, US and Bulgarian airmen participated in the Thracian Viper 24 joint military training exercise at Bezmer Air Base, Bulgaria. **PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA/FILE PHOTO**

Europe grows weary of Iran conflict

As Europe grows weary of the US conflict with Iran, the European leaders are trying to stay off US President Donald Trump's radar to avoid new demands to intervene, media reported.

"At this point, European leaders are doing their best to fly under Trump's radar to avoid new demands for Europeans to intervene in some way," former Finnish foreign ministry official Joel Linnainmaki was quoted as saying by a media. He said that the main feeling in Europe was "weariness" because whenever there is a cessation of hostilities it is followed by an inevitable round of escalation by either side. — SPUTNIK

34 Pakistani miners presumed dead after accident

THIRTY-four workers trapped in a coal mine explosion in Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province were presumed dead, rescue officials said on Friday.

The explosion occurred at around 4 pm local time on Thursday inside a coal mine on the outskirts of the provincial capital of Quetta, where the miners were working at the time of the incident. Officials said 32 bodies have been recovered from the mine, while two others remain trapped in a highly complex and inaccessible section. Authorities said the 34 workers are presumed dead. — Xinhua

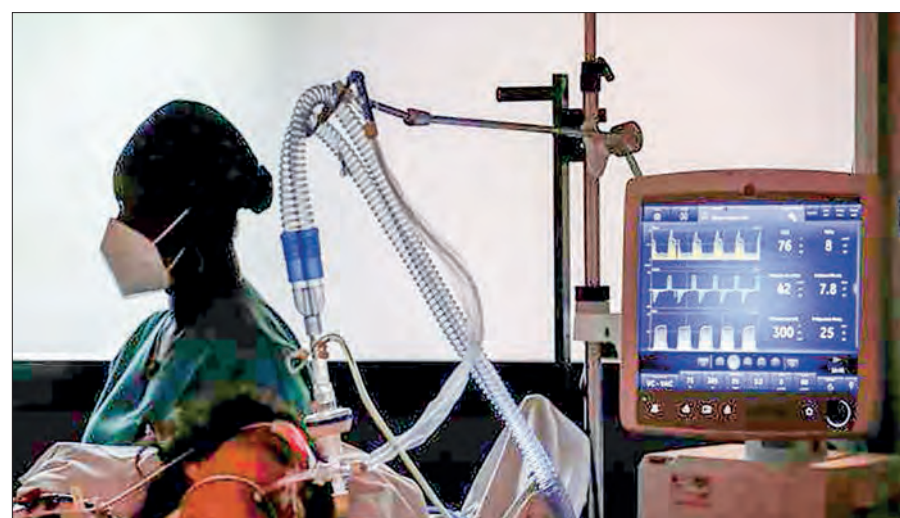
Over 1.8 million foreigners visited India for medical tourism

The medical tourism sector is "a rapidly growing sector having immense global potential".

MORE than 18.11 lakh foreign nationals visited India for medical tourism between 2023 and 2025, the government informed the Lok Sabha on Friday, while highlighting measures taken to facilitate medical travel and promote the country's growing medical and wellness tourism sector.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel said the medical tourism sector is "a rapidly growing sector having immense global potential" and is being supported through initiatives of various ministries, departments, trade bodies and private sector hospitals.

According to data shared by the Ministry of Home Affairs, a total of



A total of 18,11,950 foreign nationals visited India on medical tourism-related visas between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2025. **PHOTO: ANI**

1,811,950 foreign nationals visited India on medical tourism-related visas between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2025. This included 1,751,088 Medical Visa/Medical Visa (E) holders, 56,908 Medical Attendant/Medical Attendant (E) visa holders, 3,375 AYUSH Visa/AYUSH Visa (E)

holders and 579 AYUSH Attendant Visa (E) holders.

The reply stated that the Central Government promotes medical and wellness tourism primarily through the Ministry of Tourism, while the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare supports the sector through

stakeholder consultations and coordination with various government ministries and private organizations, including NATHEALTH, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and the Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC). — ANI

Nauru sells 'golden passports' to fund climate adaptation

AS it faces rising sea levels caused by climate change, the tiny Pacific island nation of Nauru is pursuing an unconventional way to raise funds for adapting to an uncertain future: offering citizenship by investment.

Launched early last year, the "golden passport" scheme has attracted interest from people seeking greater freedom of travel as well as stateless individuals seeking legal recognition.

But it has also drawn scrutiny over whether citizenship can be ade-

quately protected when it is offered in exchange for money.

The country officially changed its name to the Republic of Naoero this

week.

Nauru's government says the programme is designed to help fund a major climate adaptation effort, including the relocation of 90 per cent of families and infrastructure to higher ground, while providing a pathway to nationality for people who lack citizenship.

Nauru, a small island ringed by coral reefs in the remote southwestern Pacific Ocean, is one of the world's smallest countries, with just 21 square kilometres of land. — Kyodo



Nauru, a small island ringed by coral reefs in the remote southwestern Pacific Ocean, is one of the world's smallest countries, with just 21 square kilometres of land. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**